

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MAJOR GENERAL GARY HARRELL

### HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 23, 2021*

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Major General Gary Harrell, who is a distinguished veteran that has served our country in numerous combat operations and in both wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. After an accomplished career in service to our country, Gary retired as the Deputy Commanding General of the United States Army Special Operations Command. It is my privilege to recognize him for his service and to honor his sacrifice to our country.

Gary earned his bachelor's degree in industrial technology from East Tennessee State University in 1973. His distinguished career began shortly after when he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 508th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, where he served as a Rifle Platoon Leader and Anti-Tank (TOW) platoon leader. In 1977, having earned a Green Beret, he was assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group in Panama.

Gary was deployed to Grenada during "Operation Urgent Fury," and then took part in combat operations in Panama with "Operation Just Cause." He was also sent to the Middle East during "Desert Shield" and "Desert Storm," and as commander of the special operation Delta Force, he was wounded by mortar fire during United Nations relief efforts in Somalia, a story chronicled in the book and movie "Black Hawk Down."

In 2001, Gary was Assistant Division Commander for the 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan, and during Operation Iraqi Freedom, he led the largest special operations force assembled since World War II. He retired in 2008 as the Deputy Commanding General of the United States Army Special Operations Command. Gary's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal (with V-device and 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), and the Purple Heart among many others.

Gary is hailed as an expert in the special operations community, and he is highly respected by his colleagues and friends. He has been described as having "unmatched expertise," and at his retirement ceremony in 2008, Lt. Gen. Robert Wagner stated, "If it was complex, if it was difficult or critical to our nation, Gary was there." When being inducted into the ETSU ROTC Hall of Fame, it was said that "to say General Harrell is a legend would be an absolute understatement."

In retirement, Gary has served in several roles, including as Director General for King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Center (KASOTC) in Amman, Jordan and Senior Vice President of Special Operations and Intelligence Advisory Group for CUBIC Applica-

tions Inc. He and his wife, Jennifer, have been blessed with three children and six grandchildren. I am proud to join the chorus of Gary's family, friends, colleagues, and admirers in thanking him for his dedicated service to our Nation.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF COACH WILFRET ANDERSON, SR.

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 23, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a remarkable individual, retired football coach Wilfret Lewis Anderson, Sr.

Coach Anderson was born to the late Louise and Lewis Anderson, Jr. on January 5, 1937. He was called to his Heavenly Home on August 3, 2021, with his family by his side. He accepted Christ as his Savior at an early age and was a faithful member of Pratt Memorial United Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi.

As a young man at Jim Hill High School, Coach Anderson was a member of the School's choir, the first football team, and the track team. He received his B.S. Degree in Physical Education in 1962 and M.S. Degree in Physical Education in 1978 from Jackson State College. Throughout his childhood and college years, he excelled in sports, which served as a significant foundation for him as a successful coach for many years. Upon graduating from college, Coach Anderson accepted a teaching position at Jim Hill High School, where he was the first graduate to return for a teaching position. He spent over 25 years as a dedicated teacher, coach, mentor, and father figure to many students while teaching and coaching at the old Jim Hill High School (Blackburn Jr. High School), Whitten Jr. High School, Jim Hill High School, and Provine High School.

Coach Anderson was a man with many talents, and he wore many hats. Known as a reasonable disciplinarian, he always maintained a very uplifting, encouraging, and humorous personality. He was by far an extended version of a people-person and always concerned about the well-being of his family, church members, co-workers, and students. He will never be forgotten but missed by many.

Coach Anderson leaves to cherish his memories: a devoted wife of 25 years, Geneva Hunt-Anderson, and children—Cynthia (Travis, Sr.) Ricks of Detroit, MI, Lynette Myles of Chicago, IL, and Derrick Martin of Burbank, CA. Four sons were born to the matrimony of Coach Anderson and Shirley Anderson Spann—Wilfret (Cynthia) Anderson, Jr. of Hollywood, FL, Marcus J. Anderson, Kenneth Anderson, and Dr. Brian Anderson, of Jackson, MS.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life, legacy, and service of Coach Wilfret Lewis Anderson, Sr.

## RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT NICHOLAS J. JONES, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

### HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 23, 2021*

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Jones, United States Marine Corps, for his honorable and devoted service to our great nation. Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Jones will be presented the Navy Cross by Marine Corps Commandant General David H. Berger during an August 26, 2021 ceremony at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

The Navy Cross is our nation's second highest military decoration for valor awarded to a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who exhibits extraordinary heroism during combat. Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Jones, of the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion, is an American hero who risked life and limb on March 8, 2020 conducting a counterattack against an ISIS stronghold in the Makhmur Mountains of Iraq. His fearless leadership and daring attitude saved countless lives that day. Our service members and our nation are safer because of his selflessness and decisiveness.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the sacrifice and service given by Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Jones. On behalf of the United States Congress, we thank Staff Sergeant Jones, and his family for his unwavering commitment to our nation. God bless our Marines and God bless the United States of America. Semper Fidelis.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NAVY FIREMAN FIRST CLASS PAUL E. SAYLOR

### HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 23, 2021*

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Navy Fireman First Class Paul E. Saylor, who, as a 21-year-old, was assigned to serve on the USS *Oklahoma*. The *Oklahoma* was moored at Ford Island in berth Fox 5 on Battleship Row of Pearl Harbor on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, when it was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The ship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize and resulted in the death of 429 crewman, including Saylor. His remains were recovered, but not identified and accounted for until Nov. 24, 2020.

Saylor was born in 1920 in the First District of Tennessee in Bluff City to the Reverend

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